

REMARKS

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2004, Applicants hereby make the following response. Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-29 were pending in the above-referenced application. In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-3, 5-6, 13-15, 17-19, and 22-29. Claims 7 and 20 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 7-12 and 20-21 remain pending for prosecution with Claims 7 and 12 being independent. Applicant has also amended the Title and requests acceptance and entry of the same.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 9-11, 19 and 24 were objected to because they contained incorrect status identifiers. Applicant has either cancelled the subject claims or correctly identified them and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim 19 has been objected as being of improper dependent form. Claim 19 has been cancelled thereby rendering this objection moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

II. The § 112 Rejection

Claims 19-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled Claims 19 and 22-23 and has amended Claim 20 to meet the requirements of § 112. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

III. The § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 13-15, 17-19, and 22-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant has cancelled these claims thereby rendering this rejection moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

VI. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten Claims 7-12 accordingly and, therefore, respectfully submits that Claims 7-12, as now presented, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 20 and 21 were also indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has rewritten Claims 20 and 21 accordingly and, therefore, respectfully submits that Claims 20 and 21, as now presented, are in condition for allowance.


V. Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and courteously solicits the same. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding the foregoing, she is encouraged to call the undersigned at 816.460.2516. Should any fees be necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any such fees from Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP

By



Lara Dickey Lewis, Reg. No. 48,161
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
816-460-2516 (telephone)
816-531-7545 (facsimile)

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT